

Remarks

The Examiner's examination of the claims is appreciated. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-15, 17, 18, and 23 are pending. Please cancel claims 7, 10, 16, and 19-22. Claim 23 is new. The provisional allowability of claim 18 is acknowledged with thanks. Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17 and 18 are amended.

The Examiner objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure as being too long. The Abstract has been shortened, and is now believed to be acceptable.

Claims 7-14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite due to informalities in claims 7 and 18. Claim 7 has been canceled, and some of its subject matter imported into claim 1 by amendment. Claim 1 also has been amended to address the concerns raised by the Examiner's rejection of claim 7.

Claim 18 also has been amended in minor ways to overcome its rejection under U.S.C. §112, ¶ 2.

Claims 8 and 12 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention, and also to adjust their dependency.

Claims 9, 11, and 17 are amended to adjust their dependency in light of the cancellation of intervening claims.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,394,914 to Meek. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reason that claim 1, as originally presented, recited "at least two abrasive regions attached in spaced relation on said flexible fabric material, said abrasive regions dimensioned and disposed for placement in spaced, at least partially overlying relationship, whereby an item to be cleaned may be placed between said abrasive regions for cleaning." This teaching is lacking from Meek. Meek's strips 38, 40 serve as fasteners, not cleaning elements. Use of such hook-and-loop fasteners to "scrub" the dirty heads of golf clubs would impair rapidly their ability to function as fasteners, as debris accumulates upon the strips and/or they are worn by the scrubbing action. Moreover, the strips 38, 40 in the Meek device are located immediately adjacent to the edges 12, 12' of the

panel triangle **54** (see Meeker Fig. 3). Applicant respectfully submits that locating the strips **38, 40** on the edges of the towel **24** increases the difficulty of holding a club head, golf ball, etc. between the strips while cleaning. Accordingly, Meek's strips **38, 40** are not "disposed for placement in spaced, at least partially overlying relationship, whereby an item to be cleaned may be placed between said abrasive regions for cleaning" as called for by the claim.

Still, claim 1 has been amended to more fully distinguish the claim over the applied Meek reference. As amended, claim 1 recites "a flexible pocket secured to said towel, said pocket having at least two abrasive regions attached therein and substantially parallel thereto, said abrasive regions having adjacent edges separated to define a space there between, and said pocket being foldable along said space to dispose said abrasive regions in spaced, at least partially overlying relationship" These limitations are clearly absent from the teaching of '914 to Meeker, and the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Meeker is overcome.

Claims 1, 5-8, 10-12, and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2,368,536. The rejection is overcome by amendments to independent claims 1 and 15.

Claim 1 as amended recites a space or gap between adjacent edges of abrasive regions. This space permits the pocket, which otherwise may be stiffened by the abrasive regions, to be folded along the gap to place the abrasive regions in at least partially overlying relationship to perform the cleaning function. Otherwise, and advantageously, the abrasive regions are "substantially parallel" to the pocket, so that the overall cleaning implement is mostly smooth and flat when the abrasive regions are not in cleaning use. These limitations distinguish claim 1 from the device of GB 2,368,536.

Claim 15 has been extensively amended, and as amended reads specially on the embodiment of Applicant's Figs. 3 and 4. Amended claim 15 calls for a "pocket includes a first edge portion stitched to said towel and a second edge portion secured to said towel by releasable fasteners, such that said pocket may be moved from a closed position parallel to said towel to an at least partially opened position, whereby said pocket may be folded to dispose said abrasive

regions in spaced, at least partially overlying relationship. . . .” The limitation to a pocket so configured to open and close distinguishes fully over the teachings of GB 2,368,536, and claim 15 is now allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 9 and 17 stand rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2,368,536 in view of ‘800 to Zeltner, and in view of ‘536 to English, respectively. These rejections are overcome by the amendments made to their respective base claims, claims 1 and 15.

As explained, amended claim 1 features “at least two abrasive regions having adjacent edges separated to define a space there between, and said pocket being foldable along said space to dispose said abrasive regions in spaced, at least partially overlying relationship” This limitation, which permits the cleaning implement to be essentially smooth or flat (but flexible) when not in use, and yet promotes easy folding of the pocket, is absent from GB 2,368,536. The ‘800 Patent to Zeltner does not supply the teachings lacking from GB 2,368,536. Zeltner’s brush **24** is a single element, which if foldable at all evidently depends upon the bendability of its substantial backing (**50, 25, 62**) and elongated bristles **52**. See ‘800 to Zeltner, col. 5, lines 28-33, 46-64. Because GB 2,368,536 and Zeltner considered together still fail to teach all the subject matter of claim 1, claims 1 and 9 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claim 17 depends from claim 15, which has been amended. Claim 15 now has a limitation to a “pocket includes a first edge portion stitched to said towel and a second edge portion secured to said towel by releasable fasteners, such that said pocket may be moved from a closed position parallel to said towel to an at least partially opened position, whereby said pocket may be folded to dispose said abrasive regions in spaced, at least partially overlying relationship” As explained previously, the GB 2,368,536 reference does not disclose or suggest the features added by amendment to claim 15. Review of the reference ‘536 to English reveals that neither does it teach the limitations of claim 15 absent from GB 2,368,536. In all embodiments, the device of ‘536 to English has a *single* abrasive region (**26, 236, or 320**) precluding it from having a “pocket may be folded to dispose said abrasive regions in spaced, at

least partially overlying relationship” as set forth in claim 15. Accordingly, claims 15 and 17 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claim 13 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 was amended to distinguish it fully over GB 2,368,536. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 is allowable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for the same reasons that claim 1, as amended, is fully distinguishable over GB 2,368,536.

Claim 23 is added to claim additional subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention.

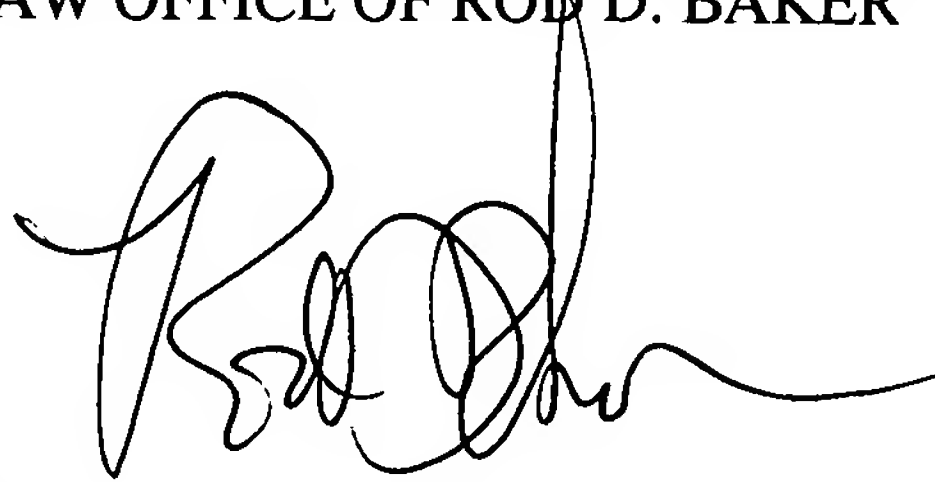
The specification is amended to correct two minor typographical errors.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-15, 17, 18, and 23 in view of the above amendments and argument. These claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of these issues, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICE OF ROD D. BAKER

Date: May 8, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod D. Baker', with a stylized, cursive script.

By:

Rod D. Baker, Reg. No. 35,434

Attorneys for Applicant
707 State Highway 333, Suite B
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059
Phone: (505) 286-9700
Fax: (505) 286-3524